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REMARKS

This is a full and timely response to the non-final Office action mailed March 7, 2006. Reexamination and reconsideration in view of the foregoing amendments and following remarks is respectfully solicited.

Claims 1-51 are pending in this application, with Claims 1, 10, 20, 31 and 42 being the independent claims.

Double Patenting Rejections

Claims 1-51 were provisionally rejected on the grounds of nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over copending Application No. 10/803,186, and various combinations of '186 with Gilfix et al ('318), Lee ('656), and Gorinevsky ('832). The Examiner stated that a timely filed terminal disclaimer may be used to overcome an actual or provisional double patenting rejection. Accordingly, applicants elect to expedite the prosecution of the present application by filing a terminal disclaimer to obviate the double patenting rejections in compliance with 37 CFR §1.321 (b) and (c). Applicants' filing of the terminal disclaimer should not be construed as acquiescence of the Examiner's double patenting or obviousness-type double patenting rejections. Attached is the terminal disclaimer and accompanying fee.

Conclusion

Based on the above, independent Claims 1-51 are patentable over the citations of record. Hence, Applicant submits that the present application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and withdrawal of the objections and rejections set forth in the above-noted Office Action, and an early Notice of Allowance are requested.

If the Examiner has any comments or suggestions that could place this application in even better form, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned attorney at the below-listed number.

If for some reason Applicant has not paid a sufficient fee for this response, please consider this as authorization to charge Ingrassia, Fisher & Lorenz, Deposit Account No. 50-2091 for any fee which may be due.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: 7 June 2006

By: 

S. Jared Pitts
Reg. No. 38,579
(480) 385-5060

Attachment